



**April 13, 2022**

**West Valley Fire Hall**

*West Valley, New York*



**#FNDinner**

**[FNDinner.com](http://FNDinner.com)**

*Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Cattaraugus County  
Farmer-Neighbor Dinner*

*Brought to you by:*

*Lamb & Webster  
Cattaraugus County IDA  
The Pillittere Group  
The Schwab Companies  
Superior Plus Propane*

*Cattaraugus County Agricultural  
and Farmland Protection Board*

*Cattaraugus County Department of  
Economic Development,  
Planning and Tourism*

*Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau*

*Cattaraugus County Soil and  
Water Conservation District*

# *Menu*

## *Appetizers*

*Bison Meatballs*

*Veggie Platter*

*Cheese, Cracker & Pepperoni Platter*

*Relish Platter*

*Spinach Dip*

## *Dinner*

*Salad*

*Beef*

*Turkey*

*Vegetarian Manicotti*

*Mashed Potatoes*

*Buttered Carrot Medallions*

*Harvard Beets*

*Dinner Roll*

## *Dessert*

*Carrotcake Cupcakes*

*Brownies*

# *Program*

**5:30**

***Vendor Tables***

***& Hors d' oeuvres***

***Music - **Homemade Jam*****

**6:45**

***Dinner***

**Buffet with locally grown foods, prepared by the West Valley Firemen's Auxiliary**

**7:45**

***Presentation of Awards***

***- Farmer of the Year***

***- Friend of Agriculture***

***- Pioneer Award***

***- Ag Legacy Award***

***- Volunteer Appreciation Award***

# *Farm of the Year*

## *D-J Farm*



- After renting a small farm with Dick Young in South Dayton, NY for one year, Dana Rublee brought 30 head of cattle with him and purchased the farm on Dublin Rd in 1976. Included was 205 acres, 70 of which was crop land.
- In 1977 he married Julie marking the beginning of D-J Farm. Between 1978 and 1987 they had 4 children: Robin, Melissa, Rick and Kimberly.
- They started buying small farms nearby 20-30 acres at a time.
- In 1980, they expanded with a silo and an addition was put on the main barn, allowing room for 54 milk cows and young stock.
- On a Spring day in 1997 Julie told Dana when he went in the house for lunch that, "Our prayers may have been answered. Brenden Martin called and wants to see if we can sit down to talk about him coming to work here."
- After many conversations and meetings, on September 1, 1997 Brenden Martin joined the farm along with his wife Kerri, son, Logan, Daughter Jenna and shortly after, their 3rd child, Kellen.
- Dana spent 10 years selling Doebler seed corn.
- Dana and Julie are members of Cattaraugus County Holstein Club and WNY Crop Association.
- In the beginning, the farm shipped their milk to Carnation in South Dayton, NY. Later to Friendship Dairies, and are currently members of Steamburg Milk Co-Op.
- Brenden and Kerri are long-time members of the Cattaraugus County Holstein Club, Brenden serving in various roles such as Director, Vice President and President; members of the New York State Holstein Association; National Holstein Association; and Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau.

- Kerri has served as the 4-H Dairy Superintendent at the Cattaraugus County Fair for over 20 years.
- D-J Farm has hosted countless youth and adult programs including youth dairy judging contests and barn meetings, Junior Dairy Leader farm tours and meetings, adult farm tours.
- In 2008, D-J Farm was recognized with the Dairy of Distinction award. This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of dairy owners/operators who have attractive, well-kept farms to help promote a positive dairy image.
- By using the best genetics available over the years, in the early 2000's the farm developed one of the most sought out cow families in the Holstein breed due to their extreme butterfat production. This resulted in the sale of numerous bulls to A.I. organizations and area farmers as well as many embryos marketed both domestically and internationally.
- Both the Rublee and Martin families have been active at the Cattaraugus County Fair which has continued through to the next generations. The children and grandchildren serving as active members in 4-H, Dairy Princess Programs and FFA.
- Today, D-J Farm crops 350 acres and owns 250 head of cattle.
- The Martin Family (Brenden, Kerri, Logan, Paige, Eloise, Jenna and Kellen) own about 40 head of registered Holsteins.
- Cows are housed in tie-stalls and free-stalls. They are milked twice per day in an 8-stall step parlor which was added on in 2017.
- They have a rolling herd average of 29,240 pounds of milk, 1,147 pounds of fat, and 897 pounds of protein.
- The cows are fed a total mixed ration of corn silage, haylage and grain.
- With hard work, dedication, teamwork, and strict attention to detail in all aspects of farm management, D-J Farm has successfully raised their families while doing what they love. It is an excellent way to live and raise a family.
- D-J Farm, the Rublee and Martin families, would like to thank and give credit to people and organizations who have supported the farm throughout the years. Everyone's individual and collective contributions have been instrumental in our business throughout the last half-century. The dedicated and committed employees, a network of other farmers, neighbors, veterinarians, milk testers, feed mills, fertilizer suppliers, equipment & machinery dealers, WNY Crop Association, semen companies, various contractors and so many more. All the people that we have done business with over the years, we appreciate you.

# *Friend of Agriculture*

## *Brian & Jean Davis*



Brian & Jean Davis have resided in Great Valley, NY for over 30 years. They were married in 1989 and have 2 children and 2 grandchildren. Together they enjoy the outdoors, including gardening, camping, and riding ATV's & snowmobiles. They also enjoy travelling around the country.

Jean is a lifelong resident of Cattaraugus County from Great Valley. She worked for USDA Farm Service Agency for over 30 years, serving as Executive Director since 2002, and retired in 2015. After retirement, she worked as a Development Specialist for the Cattaraugus County Dept. of Economic Development, Planning, & Tourism, where she was involved in promoting and supporting the ag industry in the county.

Brian is originally from the Cobleskill NY area, but has resided in Cattaraugus County since beginning his career here in 1985 with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. In 1990 he left NRCS to become the District Field Manager for the Cattaraugus County Soil & Water Conservation District, where he spent 30 years until his retirement in 2020. Although he wasn't born & raised on a farm, he spent a good share of his youth & teenage years on and around farms in his neighborhood, and these experiences helped fuel his lifelong interest in agriculture and admiration for farmers and the values they provide to their communities.

Throughout their careers, Brian & Jean have administered numerous programs & services and secured millions of dollars in funding through their agencies to provide technical and financial assistance to farms to help them implement a wide variety of agricultural conservation and economic enhancement projects. They often partnered with each other as well as many other agricultural agencies and organizations to collaborate on various initiatives to support and enhance the agricultural industry in the county.

***Thank you, Brian and Jean, for all  
you do to support agriculture in  
Cattaraugus County!***

## *Pioneer Award*

### *Maple Ridge Bison Ranch*



Jeff Goodyear founded Maple Ridge Bison Ranch, Inc. in 2001, starting with just 10 Bison. They are a family owned and operated business, the first four generations of their family operated a dairy farm on the same lands that bison now roam. The following year they purchased 60 animals from the Black Hills of South Dakota. They now maintain a herd size of around 80 animals.

Most of their 300 acres is fenced with 6 strands of high tensile electric fence where the bison roam freely.

They support the growth of natural and sustainable agricultural practices and treat all of their bison with dignity. They are fifth generation tenants of the land and feel strongly that our environment can be renewed through wise use, and their land management philosophy allows the bison to roam freely (with minimal human interference) as they did centuries ago. This natural environment allows them to produce some of America's finest red meat available.

## *Congratulations,*

### *Maple Ridge Bison Ranch!*



# *Ag Legacy Award*

## *Bill and Jean Jones*

### *WiLean Farm*



Wilfred (Bill) and Jean Jones bought their current farm known as Wilean Farms, LLC, in September of 1959. They started with 4 old cows from their parents and raised calves from those cows. In 1999, they expanded their farm and added a milking parlor. Currently they have 200 cows and 200 heifers.

Wilean Farms began shipping milk to Dairylea Cooperative, but switched to Upstate Niagara Cooperative around 50 years ago. Since, the farm has been awarded a 20-year Quality Milk Award and have been a Dairy of Distinction for 30 years. Their grandson, Tom Graser, his wife, Elaine, and son, Henry, are currently working into taking the farm over to carry on the tradition.

Bill and Jean have raised their family on this very farm as well. They have five children, all who continue to live in the community with their spouses. From their children they have 20 grandchildren (15 married) and 33 great-grandchildren! Family gatherings sure have grown over the past 60 years and so have their hearts.

Along with the farm, Bill & Jean have had a well-known produce stand for several years. The produce stand can be found stocked with in

season garden veggies including corn, potatoes and squash among many others. Peaches, apples and pumpkins are a staple for the stand as well! They often have fresh eggs, but they are not on the shelves for long!

Bill and Jean have been a staple in their community since their arrival in 1959. Bill has been a volunteer fireman for 61 years, serving as chief for many, and Jean has been in the Women's Auxiliary for about as many! You could always find them lending a hand at the Fire Department's Chicken BBQs, meat raffles or any other fundraiser being held. All of their kids and grandchildren participated in 4-H and/or FFA. Bill and Jean have supported these programs for several years by purchasing market animals at the Cattaraugus County Fair.

When asked how they have been successful in an alarmingly decreasing industry, Bill says you have to "Work at it." It takes perseverance, take the highs with the lows, and remember it's not only a business, it's our way of life.

***Congratulations,  
Bill and Jean Jones!***

# *Volunteer Appreciation Award*

## *HomeMade Jam*



The Volunteer Appreciation Award is new for this year, created to honor the Farmer-Neighbor House Band, HomeMade Jam.

HomeMade Jam has entertained the Farmer-Neighbor crowd since our 1st year at the West Valley Fire Hall. They truly set the stage for the evening with their melodies from the second you walk into the venue.

Thank You to the various members of HomeMade Jam for complementing our event year after year.

## ***Event Donors***

*CCIDA*

*Car-Bu Farms, LLC*

*Merritt Winery*

*Upstate Milk*

*Canticle Farm*

*Ford Brothers*

*Native Offerings Farm*

## ***Agriculture Advocates***

*Benz's Sugar Shanty LLC*

*Blesy Farms, LLC*

*Boberg Construction Company*

*Cattaraugus County Attorney's Office*

*Cattaraugus County EDPT*

*Cattaraugus County Department Heads*

*Cattaraugus County Legislators*

*Cattaraugus County Soil & Water*

*Charlie Hebdon*

*City of Olean*

*Cornell Co-Op Ext of Cattaraugus*

*Farm Friends*

*Grand View Farm*

*HayBail Cattle*

*Perfectly Blended Family*

*Roszyk Hill Gang*

*Telaak Farms, LLC*

*Town of Persia*

*Waverly Pond Farm*

*West Valley Chamber of Commerce*

*Wishing Star Farm*

## ***Thank You to our Exhibitors:***

*Cattaraugus County EDPT*

*Cattaraugus County Health Department*

*Cattaraugus County Soil & Water Conservation District*

*Cattaraugus County Cornell Co-op Ext.*

*Dairy Farmers of America*

*Erie and Niagara Insurance*

*Evans Agency*

*Farm Bureau*

*Farm Credit East ACA*

*Gold Star Feed & Grain*

*Laing-Gro Fertilizer*

*Lake Erie Watershed Protection Agency*

*Nannen Arboretum*

*NY Sustainable Ag Working Group*

*Superior Plus Propane*

### ***Special Thank You to:***

***West Valley Volunteer Hose Company  
and the West Valley Firemen's Auxiliary***

# ***Past Award Winners***

## ***Farm of the Year***

2012 *Telaak Farms*  
2014 *Sprague's Maple Farms*  
2016 *Angus Hill Farm*  
2018 *Hills Valley Farm*  
2020/2021 *Gibbs Apiaries*

2013 *Pine Villa Farm*  
2015 *Canticle Farm*  
2017 *Pumpkinville*  
2019 *Native Offerings*

## ***Friend of Agriculture***

2012 *Lisa Kempisty*  
2014 *Charlesworth Family*  
2016 *Jim Ellis*  
2018 *Jack Searles*  
2020/2021 *John Busekist*

2013 *Rick Miller*  
2015 *Joan Petzen*  
2017 *Lloyd "Ev" Webster*  
2019 *Chuck & Phyllis Couture*

## ***Conservation Farm of the Year***

2012 *Nichols Farm*  
2014 *Tim Ploetz Farm*  
2016 *R&D Adams Dairy Farm*  
2018 *Bliss Dairy Company*  
2020/2021 *Colonial Hill Farms*

2013 *Pimm's View Dairy*  
2015 *Triple R Farms*  
2017 *Blesy Farm*  
2019 *Woloszyn Farm*

## ***Ag Legacy Award***

2017 *Joe & Jeannie Pagett*

2018 *Barb Andera*

## ***Pioneer Award***

2019 *Hi Y Farm*

# 2022 Farmer-Neighbor Sponsors

## Premier

---

*Lamb & Webster*

*The Schwab Companies*

*Cattaraugus County IDA*

*Superior Plus Propane*

*The Pillittere Group*

## Platinum

---

*Farm Credit East, ACA*

*CCE of Catt Cty*

*The Evans Agency LLC*

*Rock City Chrysler Dodge*

*CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley*

*Jeep Ram*

## Gold

---

*Car-Bu Farms*

*New Eagle Silo*

*Catt Cty Soil & Water*

*Perry Veterinary Clinic*

*Dairy Farmers of America*

*Seneca Trail RCD Council*

*Erie & Niagara Insurance*

*WNY Crop Management Assoc.*

*Gold Star Feed and Grain*

*Wild Acres Family Farm*

*Laing-Gro Fertilizer*

*NY Sustainable Ag Working*

*L.E.W.P.A.*

*Group*

## Silver

---

*Carolina Eastern-Crocker, LLC*

*Charlesworth Family Farm*

*ERA Team VP Real Estate*

*Nannen Arboretum*

## Bronze

---

*Ortel Supply Inc.*

# Lamb & Webster

THE  
PILLITTERE  
GROUP





# Superior Plus Propane



# CATTARAUGUS COUNTY IDA



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Cattaraugus County



# Rock City

Little Valley, NY



## FARM CREDIT EAST



## EVANS INSURANCE AGENCY

***Thank you!***

***From the Cattaraugus County Agricultural  
and Farmland Protection Board***

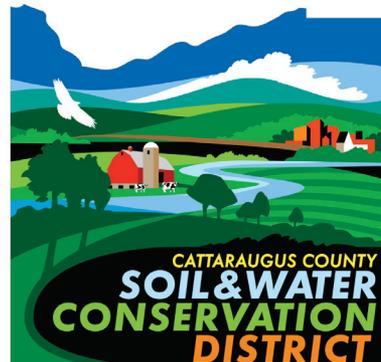
***Cattaraugus County  
Department of  
Economic Development,  
Planning and Tourism***



***Cattaraugus County  
Farm Bureau***



***Cattaraugus County  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District***



*See you at  
next year's Dinner...  
April 12, 2023*



**#FNDinner** | **[FNDinner.com](https://www.FNDinner.com)**